

News Release

Royalty Crowned at 36th Annual Ag Arama at the U of M Crookston; Senior Amanda Thorsvig, Detroit Lakes, Minn., captures True Grit Award

By Itollefs on Monday, January 31, 2011

Ag Arama royalty were named at the 36th annual event on Saturday, January 29, 2011, at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Crowned royalty at this year's Ag Arama were King Sam Westby, a senior from Pelican Rapids, Minn., majoring in animal science and agronomy ; Queen Alysia Osowski, a junior from Grafton, N.D., majoring in agricultural business and agronomy; Princess Maria Funk, a sophomore from Sebeka, Minn., majoring in agricultural education; and Prince John Plass, a sophomore from Tule Lake, Calif., majoring in agronomy.



The royalty are selected through a rigorous application process involving student achievement and interviews by a panel of judges helps determine who best reflects the goals and spirit of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. A student vote is also factored into the selection process.



Ag Arama's 2011 True Grit Award winner was Senior Amanda Thorsvig, an agricultural education major from Detroit Lakes, Minn. The True Grit Award is an award given annually to a student who best demonstrates the hardworking, persistent spirit of Todd Opsahl, a UMC student in 1973-74.

Contests in agronomy, animal science, horticulture, and natural resources highlight Ag Arama weekend. They serve as an opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and skills and have a chance to interact with alumni and faculty members. Ag Arama is planned and operated by a committee of students advised by Terrill Bradford, animal science instructor in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department.

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,400 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photos:
Top, right: Ag Arama Royalty: King Sam Westby, Queen Alysia Osowski, Princess Maria Funk, and Prince John Plass

Bottom, left: Pictured at the far right with Ron Del Vecchio, Ph.D., professor and department head for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, is True Grit Award winner Amanda Thorsvig.

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